

# Fathers are Important



**It's a well-known fact** that one of the first words most babies speak is “da-da.”

They may not intentionally be calling dear old dad, but the need for their father's love begins during their infancy.

A lot of attention is placed on the role of mothers as caregivers, but fathers make a difference too!

Kids need their dads to play with them, protect them, guide them and love them. Girls who are treated well by their dads have great examples of the type of man they should someday date or marry. Boys look to their dads to teach them how to become responsible and productive men and fathers.

Regardless of whether a child's father lives in the home, it's important for the child to spend time and build a relationship with his or her dad.

Children who have fathers or father figures in their lives:

- *Are more confident*
- *Make better grades*
- *Have less incidences of juvenile delinquency*
- *Are less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol*
- *Have lower rates of teen pregnancy.*

Besides all of these great reasons for fathers to stay involved, there's also the reason that matters most – a child's love for a parent is unconditional, and it deserves to be returned.

